

RESENTS SLUR ON VIRGINIA EDITORS

(Continued From First Page.)

and assassins had been secured for this meeting.

Two or three subjects of pressing importance were touched upon by President Campbell. He regarded the problem of taxation the greatest and most important with which the people of Virginia and of the United States have to grapple to-day as a national issue. He said it divides the great political parties as the main issue, and on it as an issue the next President of the United States will be elected.

"In Virginia, as a State, in methods, in Virginia, as a State, in methods, I regret to say our State has not dealt with this question in that business-like manner it should have done. But we are improving, and on the press of the State it is needless for me to say much depends in a proper consideration of this important, the most important, question with which our people have to deal."

In concluding, Judge Campbell said: "I am proud not only of our members, but of the character, worth, morally, mentally and otherwise, of our membership. A finer body of ladies and gentlemen I have never been associated with, not excepting the men of the Virginia Legislature or the Constitutional Convention of 1901 and 1902, which has been considered by many as the flower of Virginia. I have seen no reptile or substandard members of this association, nothing within its ranks who could be truthfully likened to bedbugs. If such exist among the newspaper men of Virginia they are not members of the Virginia Press Association, and I hope they never will be, and we are not entitled to any part of their discredit brought upon newspapers, but in my opinion every paper which bears one side, free or paid as an advertisement, then refuses a hearing from an opposing side, is unworthy of our high office."

Committees Appointed.

Upon the conclusion of his address, President Campbell announced the following committees:

Committee on Finance—J. A. Whitman, chairman, Wytheville Enterprise; R. N. Robinson, Orange Observer; A. S. Morton, Staunton Vindicator.

Committee on Membership—W. R. Kennedy, Rockbridge County News; A. H. Clement, Appomattox Times; Virgilian; D. W. Pierce, Arvonia Clarion.

Committee on Rules and Resolutions—J. C. Hemphill, chairman, Richmond Times-Dispatch; E. G. Moreley, Danville Methodist; C. B. Cooke, Richmond Journal.

Committee on Nominations—Mc-

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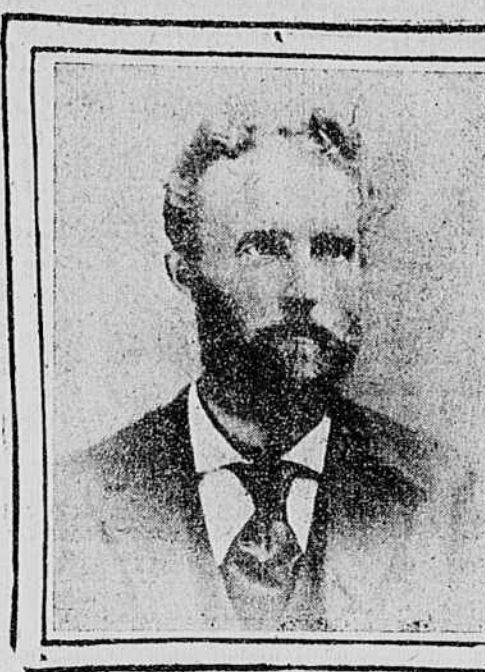
Donald Lee, chairman, Irvington, Virginia Citizen; R. A. James, Danville Register; A. P. Rowe, Fredericksburg Free Lance; H. R. Mills, Buena Vista Times; G. O. Green, Clifton Forge Review.

At the afternoon session, Mrs. E. W. Bissell, of the Staunton News and Dispatch, read a brilliant paper on "Woman Journalism." In beginning she said she wished it to be understood clearly that she was not a suffragette, "for while I am an advocate of woman's rights to the extent of a woman receiving the same salary when she can fill a position usually filled by a man, I hope most sincerely I shall never see the day when the woman of this dear old Commonwealth shall go to the polls to vote."

Mrs. Bissell has been a reporter, the only reporter on a morning daily, and has therefore taken note of everything from police reporting to specializing in political campaign work, and she paid a high tribute to the people of her community, where she declared "there is the feeling that a lady is a lady as long as she behaves herself as one. I have never hesitated to go anywhere when occasion arose for a story, and I have always received courteous treatment," she declared. "There is really no reason why a newspaper should not be decent in its news service as well as in the expression of its opinion. We all realize," said Mrs. Bissell, "that the press is a mold of public opinion, and should realize the tremendous responsibility which rests upon us."

The association is resting on its arms tonight, waiting for the duties of the morning, much encouraged by the opening day's excellent work, and largely increased attendance. When the evening and the morning shall open the second day, as the first day opened with the fervent prayer of that righteous man, the Rev. E. C. Morey, editor of the Danville Methodist, so it closes with the blessing of God Almighty, who made these everlasting hills and sent this afternoon the generous showers which have just fallen upon this marvelous mountain top as a benediction.

Prominent Speakers Who Will Make Addresses Before the Virginia State Press Association



PRESIDENT C. J. CAMPBELL, of Amherst.



DR. GEORGE H. DENNEY, President of Washington and Lee University.



SAMUEL W. MEER, of Richmond.



SPEAKER R. E. BYRD.



MISS BERTHA GRAY ROBINSON, Editor of the Orange Observer.

DR. DENNEY'S ADDRESS TO VIRGINIA EDITORS

Refers to Points of Essential Unity in Mission of High-Minded Newspaper and That of the College.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)—Dr. George H. Denney, president of Washington and Lee University, to-day delivered the following address before the Virginia Press Association, now in session here. Dr. Denney said: Mr. President and Gentlemen:

A great preacher recently referred to a "rainbow vein" to the "sapphire hills" of Rockbridge. He used this expression to emphasize the peculiar charm and beauty of this region, and especially of this county, to which I bid you welcome to-day. I can think of no class of men in whose honor our gates would be more gladly thrown open. I can think of no class of men who are more honorably serving our Commonwealth than the men who are day by day producing the grist that goes to make the finished product of the newspapers of Virginia.

We are glad to welcome you to Rockbridge, which is not merely a "sapphire hills" but the home of great memories, of high traditions and of heroic associations with the things which in the past history of the Commonwealth have most signally illustrated the courage, the fidelity and the integrity of our Southern civilization and Southern life.

No Words of Flattery.

I do not underestimate the value of this opportunity to speak a word to the newspaper men of Virginia. I feel that I could have no finer audience than this group of men whose duty it is to mold and to fashion the thought and the destiny of our rapidly developing democracy. I do not intend to speak words of flattery when I express myself in this way. I seek merely to state what is true. Nor do I intend to flatter you when I say that I believe that the men who are conducting the newspaper business of this Commonwealth are in the main true to their high and holy trust. My whole life has been lived in Virginia. I have not personally known a single man engaged in this high work who has lacked in courage, in probity, in integrity or in a right conception of public and private duty. Many a time I have seen their manhood and their metal tested, and in not a single instance within the range of my personal knowledge has there been a conscious turning aside from the path of honor and just dealing. As Virginian I resent the recent imputation, attributed to a college professor, that our press is largely corrupt and our editors are to a degree the mere hirelings of Thomas F. Ryan.

There are some things that I would like to say. As a college president I have often occurred to me that in the last analysis there are many points of essential unity in the mission of the high-minded newspaper and that of the college. It has seemed to me that each is engaged in supplementing, strengthening and strengthening the work of the other. There are, of course, points of difference in method, in form, in content, in purpose and in the end attained. This, however, is a time when I should like to put the emphasis on the

points of agreement rather than on the points of difference.

Points of Agreement.

1. You are engaged in ascertaining and reporting facts, so are we. You are engaged in educating the many along a few lines. We are engaged in educating the few along many lines. You are engaged directly in creating and fashioning public sentiment. We are engaged indirectly in doing precisely the same thing by sending out trained men, who are to become the leaders of public sentiment in the various communities to which they go. This, as I conceive it, is one of the highest duties of college men. Who are the men that, in the various communities of our Commonwealth, most largely fashion and direct public sentiment? It was Guizot, I believe, who said, concerning the college men of Europe, that one-third of them grow prematurely old from the effects of verbiage, one-third of them prematurely die from the wasting of their young manhood in the habits, while the remaining third govern the nations of Europe. I have faith that our American colleges are rendering a better account of their stewardship than their Old World predecessors. I recall that a greater man and the ideal of the German university to-day will become the thought and the ideal of Germany to-morrow. That is the standard, and the ideal set by our American colleges. In order to accomplish this high end they are training men not only know how to lead public sentiment, but they are also taught that it is their duty to give at least a part of their time to their fellowmen in social and economic ways. More than that, they are turning out a great group of young men determined to eliminate from public life the political demagogue who thrives on personal abuse of public men, on worn-out issues, on false appeals to prejudice and passion, and in the last stages of his diseased ambition lets his hair grow long and struts a new political party.

The American college has gone to battle for a broader intelligence and a soberer discipline of public sentiment, and in this struggle it proclaims itself the natural ally and the powerful coadjutor of the best type of American newspaper.

Best Type of Patriotism.

2. Another point of agreement lies in this: Your work, if rightly done, is helping to evoke a better type of patriotism, and a higher conception of civic responsibility in the nation; so does the work of the college. My appeal directly to the public, especially when great burning issues arise. We appeal to a smaller group of picked men not directly with reference to any particular issue, but indirectly with reference to all fundamental issues that challenge the attention of men. We are trying to leave society by sending into it the intellectual and moral man, the trained man who is willing to know things before he undertakes to settle them, and not to settle things first and

know about them afterwards; the man who thinks with his mind, and not with his emotions; the man of open mind, who is willing to modify his views in the light of after-discovered evidence; the man who accepts the aphorism of San James to the effect that "where you meet a fact in the middle of the road there is no use to try to get around it, that you had just as well get off your horse, unback your harness and make yourself at home." Such is the basis of the college appeal to patriotism. It requires its devotees to study all public questions in this spirit, and to reach all final judgments by this method. Is not the spirit that is needed in many American communities of to-day?

The most pathetic occurrence (with a pretended patriotic impulse) that I have known occurred some years ago on the day following a national election. The returns had been received from Jones's Precinct, at Smith's Cross Roads, in Brown county. Fifty men, all of them farmers, with interests identically the same, had voted twenty-six on one side and twenty-four on the other. Then followed a great partisan quarrel. Neighbor was arrayed against neighbor, and friend against friend. These men were interested, not in the result of the national election, but in the majority of two at Smith's Cross Roads. Was this division and this demonstration the result of conviction, based on a sound knowledge of the issues of the campaign? Perhaps forty-eight of these fifty men were ignorant of the fundamental principles underlying a single one of the great issues involved. With instincts absolutely identical, they were about equally divided, and why? Because the grandfather of the leader of one faction had perchance disputed over a boundary line with the grandfather of the leader of the other faction; because a kinsman of the leader of one faction held a Federal office under one political party and a kinsman of the leader of the other faction held a State office under another political party. In brief, it was a case of personal prejudice and private enmity, masquerading under the guise of civic duty.

Demand a Change.

It is just here that the college and the newspaper, each in its own way, demand a change. The college is training the leaders. The newspaper is informing the masses. Men are to-day anxiously asking: Will representative government survive? The answer to that question lies in the intelligence of one faction, held a Federal office under one political party and a kinsman of the leader of the other faction held a State office under another political party. In brief, it was a case of personal prejudice and private enmity, masquerading under the guise of civic duty.

3. Another point of agreement lies in this: Your work, if rightly done, is helping to evoke a better type of patriotism, and a higher conception of civic responsibility in the nation; so does the work of the college. My appeal directly to the public, especially when great burning issues arise. We appeal to a smaller group of picked men not directly with reference to any particular issue, but indirectly with reference to all fundamental issues that challenge the attention of men. We are trying to leave society by sending into it the intellectual and moral man, the trained man who is willing to know things before he undertakes to settle them, and not to settle things first and

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national disease, said that "the age is possessed of the statistical devil."

This is a fair compendium of our modern creed. I believe that it is the sacred duty of the college to resist this tendency to reduce all values to one crude and sordid level. This does not mean that the college should ignore our social and economic growth. I have already said that it is striving to hasten it. It only means that it would temper it and steady it; that it would inform and invest it with an ordered sense of economic honor and industrial self-respect. It does not mean that we would strike the heart out of the South's onward march to industrial power. It means that we would establish it upon a firmer and more enduring basis. I do not believe that the South desires or can afford to get rich upon the foundation of selfishness and dishonor. Such riches would be as a millstone hung about her neck.

4. Finally, I would mention this point of agreement: Your work, if rightly done, is helping to establish a higher moral standard in business, in society, in government. So is our work. Here, again, your method in reaching the masses. Our method is to train picked men to make warfare for moral right. My plea for college training is not that it will increase the earning capacity or that it will contribute to personal fame and fortune. The sound plea for college training and this is true of the newspaper also rests upon the moral influence it exerts, directly and indirectly, upon the individual and upon society. No one will deny that money can be made without education. So can it be made without publicity. In fact, the very lack of publicity is perhaps responsible for many of the greatest fortunes of modern times. The college and the newspaper, if true to their mission, will stand for manhood first and the almighty dollar second. They will proclaim as their joint, perpetual creed, the high and unchanging ethical standards. Their alliance in this holy struggle will be both offensive and defensive. It is the glory of the newspaper that in this struggle it can directly reach all classes and directly influence all conditions of men. It is the glory of the college that it is permitted to leave the lump through a smaller group of potential men.

In conclusion, I have just this word concerning the college and the newspaper:

1. The college must stand, as never before, for service as well as for scholarship. It must give, as never before, to a thirsty world the lofty faith, the unquenchable hope and the superabundant energy of the life which culture crowns. It must give to society not merely the man who can perform a definite, specified task, but also the man of such enlargement of spirit that his task will neither belittle him nor crush him; the man who enlarges and dignifies his task; the man who is bigger than any task to which he will ever be called to put his hand; the man of sober discipline, of moral efficiency and of catholic vision; the man who

can and will lead in the right way; the man who will blaze the way in all the great achievements that are destined to distinguish the age in which we live.

2. The newspaper must stand, as never before, for service as well as for publicity. It must give, as never before, to a thirsty world the same and tempered force that will lift the public impulse, quicken the public conscience and elate the public desire. You recall these fine words of a great American statesman:

"There is no higher or more honorable calling than that of the man connected with an upright, fearless and truthful newspaper; no calling in which a man can render greater service to his fellow countrymen. The best and ablest editors and writers in the daily press render a service to the community which can hardly be paralleled by the service rendered by the best and ablest of the men in public life or of the men in business. But the converse of this proposition is also true. The most corrupt financiers, the most corrupt politicians, are no greater menace to this country than the newspaper men of the type I have discussed. Whether they belong to the yellow press, or to the purchased press, whatever may be the stimulating cause of their sordid mendacity, and whatever the cloak it may wear, matters but little. In any event, they represent one of the potent forces for evil in the community."

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